

RECOGNIZING 96-YEAR-OLD WAR HERO JOHN THOMAS WILLETT, A SURVIVOR OF THE USS "LSM-169" SHIP THAT HAD TO BE EVACUATED AFTER HITTING AN ENEMY MINE DURING WWII

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John Thomas Willett, a Buffalo native who barely survived when the ship he was serving on hit an enemy mine while he was serving our great nation as a Seaman First Class in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

Mr. Willett was born in Buffalo, New York in 1926 where he attended high school before enlisting in the United States Navy in 1943 at the age of 17. He spent most of his service in the Asiatic Pacific Theater during World War II. He was stationed on the USS *LSM-169* where he participated in numerous battles including the Battle of Corregidor, Luzon and Manila Bay-Bicol Operations where he achieved the rank of Seaman First Class.

On February 15, 1945 the USS *LSM-169* struck a mine off the coast of the Mariveles Harbor in the Philippines. A massive explosion caused fires on the ship but Seaman First Class Willett was on the other side of the ship and miraculously survived. The USS *LCS-48* and the USS *PC-1133* came to the rescue and saved as many service members as possible. Unfortunately, some service members lost their lives. Although he survived, after being pulled from the water and helping to rescue others, Seaman First Class Willett suffered shrapnel wounds and hearing loss due to the explosion but continued his service until he was honorably discharged from the Navy on April 14, 1946.

Upon returning home and graduating high school, John worked at Buffalo's grain elevators while attending college at night on the GI bill and got married. He enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserves on February 9, 1951 and spent the next few months training at Camp Pendleton in California during the Korean conflict. He officially was discharged from military service on September 1st of the same year he returned home to Buffalo to be with his wife and four children. He is still married to his wife of 73 years, Mildred and his family eventually grew to 12 children, 31 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren. He worked in the Aerospace industry for almost 40 years, retiring from MOOG to pursue woodworking, athletics and volunteer work including Meals on Wheels, Habitat for Humanity, to name just a few.

I am proud to recognize the bravery of World War II Veteran John Thomas Willett.

CONGRATULATING ANDREW LISTER FOR RECEIVING THE GOLDEN APPLE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Andrew Lister, a teacher from

Orion High School, for receiving the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching from the Golden Apple Foundation.

The Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching recognizes and honors our most outstanding teachers for the positive and lasting impact they have on our students' lives and our community as a whole. Mr. Lister is one of 10 award recipients in Illinois—selected out of 400 nominations of 9 through 12 grade teachers. I'm so glad to see Mr. Lister recognized for inspiring students at Orion High School and his overall contributions to the Orion community.

It is because of committed and honorable educators such as Mr. Lister that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Andrew Lister for receiving the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching.

HONORING JEAN MORALES-RAMOS

HON. RICK W. ALLEN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, Jean Morales-Ramos, upon his acceptance to the United States Naval Academy.

As a future midshipman, he will be joining the ranks of the world's most elite naval force, guided by the motto: "Semper Fortis".

The service and sacrifice of America's military personnel have safeguarded our Nation since its inception, defending our way of life from Lexington to Normandy.

And throughout our history, American servicemembers have demonstrated tremendous courage and strength, beating back tyranny to the ends of the earth.

I was glad to sponsor Jean's nomination and I am confident that his talents will distinguish him among his peers during his time at the Academy and thereafter.

I congratulate Jean, and know he will make this Nation proud.

RECOGNIZING GAME WARDEN AARON KAMMANN

HON. MATTHEW M. ROSENDALE, SR.

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the outstanding work of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks' Region 3 Gallatin District Game Warden, Mr. Aaron Kammann from Bozeman, Montana.

Montana's game wardens have a responsibility to provide protection for Montana's diverse and highly treasured natural resources, and Warden Kammann's actions exemplify proper stewardship of the Treasure State and commitment to Montana values and outdoor traditions.

In addition, Mr. Kammann regularly brings confiscated and damaged wild game to a local food bank, FoodArk, which processes and distributes meat to those in need. His work ethic embodies the core principles of duty, selfless-

ness, and resourcefulness, and Montana is grateful for his public service.

I thank Aaron for serving the people of Montana.

RECOGNIZING CORPORAL PATRICK DANIEL MCKEE

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent from my district, Patrick Daniel McKee. After 29 years of service with the Plumstead Township Police Department, Corporal McKee is retiring. Born and raised in Plumstead, Patrick graduated Central Bucks East High School and then began working in the auto repair field, finding such success that he owned and operated his own repair and service station. In December 1992, Patrick decided to attend the Montgomery County Community College Police Academy. By April 1993, he was hired by his hometown police department in Plumstead Township as a full-time, sworn police officer. Throughout his time with the department, he served as a Detective and attended numerous training programs related to investigations, including the highly regarded FBI Intercounty Detective Training Program in 1998. By 2004, Patrick was promoted to the rank of Corporal and given the responsibility of overseeing a squad of patrol officers. Patrick also served as one of the department's Firearms Instructors and armorer, training law enforcement officers in the proper use and safe handling of firearms.

Throughout Corporal McKee's career, his commitment to service has not gone unnoticed. Members of the community writing to the department have expressed thanks for Patrick's gracious, friendly, and respectful demeanor both in and out of uniform. He has also received letters of commendation from the Bucks County District Attorneys' Office and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, to name just a couple. Patrick has proven himself to be an officer committed to protecting and defending his hometown and his neighbors.

We are incredibly grateful for the positive impact that Corporal Patrick Daniel McKee has had throughout his long career of public service, and we wish him countless blessings during his retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS LEGAL SUPPORT ACT OF 2022

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Veterans Legal Support Act of 2022, which would allow the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide support to law school clinical programs that provide pro bono legal and support services to veterans, including assistance with disability claims and appeals and foreclosures. There are already at least 22 law schools that have clinics devoted to veterans' legal needs, including the

William & Mary Law School Veterans Benefits Clinic, which serves as a national model for this idea and was the first recipient of a “best practice” certification from the VA. There are many other law schools, such as the University of the District of Columbia’s David A. Clarke School of Law, that are interested in starting their own VA-certified clinics. More needs to be done to sustain and increase the number of these programs.

I was a tenured professor of law and continued to teach a seminar after being elected to Congress. I saw the expert assistance that clinical programs provide their clients.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, a concrete measure that would assist our veterans, who put their lives on the line for this country.

EDINBURGH BICENTENNIAL

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate the city of Edinburgh on the occasion of its grand Bicentennial.

Edinburgh was the first settlement in Johnson County and was established March 3 1822. Edinburgh’s history runs rich and deep, even boasting Johnson County’s oldest and first store. Standing alongside this historical store is the Edinburgh Post Office which has been in operation since 1823.

Edinburgh represents the true spirit of America with businesses, communities, and our very own Camp Atterbury. Business thrives here where there were once railroads and mills, and where the hardwood veneer industry still stands. Another famous business finds its home here, founded in 1989, Not Just Popcorn, which has been recognized not only nationally, but globally.

I would like to honor this great city. From its storied history to its present day standing here in Indiana, may Edinburgh be celebrated on this Bicentennial year.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF ISRAEL’S CONSUL GENERAL TO THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST SHLOMI KOFMAN

HON. RO KHANNA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Mr. KHANNA. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Israel’s Consul General to the Pacific Northwest Shlomi Kofman on the conclusion of his term of service, and his return on August 1, 2022, to Israel for his next assignment.

Consul General Kofman is the diplomatic representative of the State of Israel to the states of California (Northern region), Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Idaho and Montana.

During his tenure, he actively promoted friendly relationships with government representatives from this region, including Members of Congress, and he has never hesitated to reach out to me to address questions for my constituents or serve as a resource on

issues related to Israel and the Israeli community in my district.

Shlomi Kofman began his appointment as Israel’s Consul General to the Pacific Northwest in August 2017.

He most recently served as a Policy Advisor to the Deputy Foreign Ministers based in Jerusalem, Israel.

Over the course of his 24-year diplomatic career, Kofman has served as Israel’s Deputy Consul General in New York City, Chief of Staff to Ambassadors in Washington D.C., Deputy Ambassador in Thailand and Deputy Consul General in Shanghai.

His past domestic Foreign Ministry positions include Director of North American Economic Affairs, Policy Advisor to the Deputy Foreign Minister, Diplomatic Advisor & Director of the International Department in the Parliament and Ministry of National Infrastructure, and the Head of the Northeast Asia sector.

Prior to joining the Foreign Ministry, Kofman worked in the High-Tech Industry, representing the Israeli company Orbot in South Korea, as well as a consultant to a leading Israeli company, ECI.

Kofman holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations & East Asian studies from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and a master’s degree from Webster University—Shanghai University of Finance & Economics. He also holds an Associate’s engineering degree.

Shlomi was born in Tbilisi, the capitol of the Soviet Republic of Georgia and made Aliya (immigrated) to Israel at the age of nine, after being refused for three years by Russian authorities.

During his tenure as Consul General serving in the Pacific Northwest, Shlomi Kofman has broadened the relationship between Israel and the states under his jurisdiction.

His advocacy and leadership led to a first-of-its-kind economic analysis that quantified the deeply interconnected California-Israel relationship, which amounts to billions of dollars in business activity and trade, and hundreds of thousands of Israelis living and working in California.

In a time where we witness increases in antisemitism, Holocaust denial, and violence against Jews, he has prioritized Holocaust education and policies to combat antisemitism and anti-Israel sentiment.

He has been a strong advocate for expanding cooperation between governments and businesses in the areas of agriculture, energy, innovation, water management, and emergency services mutual aid.

In 2020, during the height of the wildfire catastrophe in California, Israel, for the first time ever, sent a delegation of firefighters to assist in fighting the fires. This was not only a gesture of solidarity and friendship but also a reaffirmation of values that both the United States and Israel share—which is to stand together with allies in times of need.

In that spirit, he convened high-level summits with policymakers to promote the sharing of COVID-19 strategies.

He has strengthened Israel’s connections with businesses, local communities, universities, and other academic institutions here in the United States.

Shlomi Kofman worked to increase the number of delegations of Americans visiting Israel to further study firsthand that country as well as organize diverse international delegations to visit the United States.

These important exchanges focused on expanding understand of diverse communities throughout the world, including people of color, women in leadership, the LGBTQ+ community, labor leaders, and citizen activists from Arab countries.

In addition, I personally have benefitted from my meetings with Consul General Kofman, where we shared honest conversations about the issues of the day. We discussed the common ties of entrepreneurship between Silicon Valley and Israel, and how such cooperation can benefit other regions of the world. I hope to continue that dialogue with his successor.

As Shlomi Kofman concludes his tenure in San Francisco, I am grateful that he built a legacy of friendship, cooperation, and a strong willingness to work with people from all backgrounds and perspectives.

The United States has greatly benefitted from the services of Consul General Shlomi Kofman.

HONORING HARRIS GELBERG, M.D. FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE SANTA BARBARA COMMUNITY

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, Harris Gelberg, M.D. has been a Santa Barbara resident since 1978. He has served the community as a cardiologist for over 44 years, caring for thousands of Santa Barbara residents.

He has demonstrated extraordinary dedication to his patients, many of whom he cared for over several decades, answering their calls at night, on the weekends, and over the holidays. He took the extra time to not only treat his patients’ heart conditions, but he coordinated their overall health care to help them remain healthy, active, and vibrant. He served as Chief of the Medical Staff of Cottage Hospital and mentored numerous physicians. Despite his busy medical practice, he is devoted to Bernice, his spouse since 1971, their children, Grant and Laura, and their grandchildren, Sam, Jonah, Theo, and Eli. After years of service to the community, he has retired from the practice of medicine.

This U.S. Congress honors Harris Gelberg, M.D. for his years of dedicated service to the people of Santa Barbara and commends him for his tireless efforts to improve the health and well-being of so many residents of our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF AN INSTALLATION AT THE NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY HONORING EDITH “EDIE” WINDSOR

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Edith “Edie” Windsor for her invaluable contributions to the LGBTQ+ rights movement and in recognition of a new installation at the New York Historical Society—Edith Windsor: Champion